

I am honored to represent the Holmes family in Congress and congratulate them for achieving this recognition.

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN A.  
HOROWITZ

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 1995*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding young woman and a prized constituent, Lauren Horowitz.

Lauren is a student at La Entrada School and recently played the lead role of Diana in the production of "Anne of Green Gables."

This outstanding performance was put on by the California Theatre Center in Sunnyvale—the only child-centered theater program in the region—and exemplifies the very best of what the arts have to offer our young people. Lauren was inspired to pursue her interest in acting by her teachers. Several little girls attending the play were inspired, in turn, by Lauren's ability to bring the role of Diana to life and asked for her autograph—the highest form of appreciation for any artist. By showing succeeding generations of young Americans a productive way to use their talents, energy, and self-discipline, the arts have proven to be a valuable asset for our children, our community, California, and our country.

Mr. Speaker, Lauren Horowitz is a young woman with a bright future ahead of her in whatever profession she may choose. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her for her winning performance and showing all of us the true value of the arts.

DAVIS-BACON ACT REFORM

**HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 1995*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to reform the Davis-Bacon Act. The bill I am introducing is identical to legislation reported by the Committee on Education and Labor in the 103d Congress.

When Government enters the construction industry through federally funded contracts, its monopoly risks skewing this unique market unfairly. Construction wages vary greatly across the country, reflecting differences in communities' cost of living and business environments. The uncertain nature of construction work, however, where employees move constantly from job to job and employer to employer and regularly face periods of unemployment, makes the industry more susceptible to cutthroat business practices than most. The Davis-Bacon Act was enacted in 1931 by a Republican Congress in order to correct a procurement system that otherwise disrupted local employment practices and encouraged the exploitation of workers.

By law, the Federal Government awards contracts on the basis of the lowest qualified bid. Absent the protection of prevailing wage statutes, such as the Davis-Bacon Act and the Service Contract Act, the requirement that contracts be awarded on a low-bid basis, particularly in labor intensive economic sectors

such as the construction industry, would inevitably result in contracts being awarded to the contractor bidding the lowest wages. In effect, Government procurement policy would act to undermine locally prevailing labor standards and reward those employers who pay the least to their employees. The Davis-Bacon Act serves the vital function of ensuring that Federal procurement policy does not act to drive down the wages of working Americans.

Opponents of the Davis-Bacon Act have created a number of inaccurate and misleading myths about the law. The most outrageous myth is that minority workers will somehow benefit from repeal. Our colleague from Texas, Mr. DELAY, has contended that repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act will "reduce discrimination against women and minorities that so often occurs within the construction industry." George Will has purported similar nonsense in his column. Mr. Will begins this fabrication by misrepresenting the circumstances that led to enactment of the Davis-Bacon Act, contending the law was enacted "to impede blacks competing for federally funded construction jobs." In fact, the law was supported by and enacted to protect contractors from the exploitative and predatory practices that were driving legitimate contractors out of the Federal construction market. Mr. Will goes on to claim that the law has a "disparate impact disadvantageous to minorities." The plain and simple truth is that the disadvantage under which minorities typically suffer is not that they are paid the prevailing wage, the same money for the same work that most workers receive, but that historically and continually they have been paid less. Implicit in both Mr. Will's and Mr. DELAY's assumptions are that minority workers are not as productive and therefore not worth the same wages as white, male workers.

The second myth that opponents of the law have perpetuated is that the law requires union wages or somehow protects unions. In fact, the law requires employers to pay the same wages that are found to be prevailing in the local area. A union wage prevails only if most workers in the area are union employees. Seventy-one percent of all wage-based determinations issued by the Department of Labor in 1994 were based on nonunion scales.

The final falsehood being perpetuated by opponents of the Davis-Bacon Act is that repeal is sound Government fiscal policy. As leading construction industry economists have recognized, however, there is a direct correlation between wage levels and productivity. Well-trained workers produce more value per hour than poorly trained workers, low wage workers. Economic studies have demonstrated that construction projects built by under-trained and under-paid workers cost more to build than those using trained workers. Recent studies clearly illustrate the impact that repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act will produce. When Utah's prevailing wage law was repealed, there was a decrease in apprenticeship training, the availability of skilled workers, and a decline in average construction wages. More importantly, lowering the standard of living of American workers by cutting their wages and fringe benefits will not translate to lower costs for any government, be it Federal, State or local.

The legislation I am introducing strikes a balance between two important goals. While retaining the protection the law affords to en-

sure that the Government policy does not undermine the living standards of our citizens, it also updates and modernizes several provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act, including limiting some of its reporting requirements and raising the coverage threshold. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS

**HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 1995*

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the League of Women Voters and to express my pride and appreciation for the organization's work. The league was founded in 1919 by Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the American Women's Suffrage Association, at the organization's final convention.

The league's history actually began in 1948 at Seneca Falls, NY, the site of the first women's rights convention and the beginning of the struggle for women to obtain the right to vote.

As president of the Women's Suffrage Association, Carrie Chapman Catt led the final fight for the 19th amendment. Her brilliant strategy enabled women to receive the right for which they had fought so hard and so long. After 75 years, women won the right to vote.

Ms. Catt is a fitting symbol of the league, which is known for its outstanding research and commitment to keeping voters informed. Voters in my home town of Milwaukee and throughout the country depend on the league's information to make informed voting choices. It is said, "If you have a question, ask a member of the league."

The league continues to keep alive the legacy of Ms. Catt and the thousands of men and women who worked for women's suffrage. In Ms. Catt's words: "Winning the vote is only an opening edge \* \* \* but to learn to use it is a bigger task."

FRIENDS OF BOSNIA

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 1995*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to the efforts of the people of western Massachusetts to alleviate the suffering of the Bosnian people, who are the victims of a vicious war waged by the last Communist regime in Europe, while the United Nations, European Community, an even the United States Government has stood idly by and engaged in a disgraceful policy of appeasement.

I am very proud to be a part of this community which is reaching out to the people of Bosnia in every way which it can. Friends of Bosnia is a local group which has been active